WASHINGTON – The link between delinquency and victimization among boys and girls who are exposed to violence is examined in a bulletin released today by the Office of Justice Programs’ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

In Children's Exposure to Violence and the Intersection Between Delinquency and Victimization, the authors found that youth who are both delinquent and victimized, often referred to as “bully-victims,” have lower levels of social support and greater rates of mental health symptoms.

For girls, a large jump in victimization and delinquency occurs between ages 11 and 12; for boys, the delinquent-victim group enlarges between ages 13 and 14. The authors suggest that delinquency and victimization prevention efforts need to be marshaled before the fifth grade and include components that minimize sexual aggression and harassment.

This bulletin is the latest in OJJDP's National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence publication series.